



## Nevada Site Office News

### **News Media Contact:**

Darwin J. Morgan, 702-295-3521

morgan@nv.doe.gov

Kevin J. Rohrer, 702-295-0197

rohrer@nv.doe.gov

### **For Immediate Release:**

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### **Preapproval Draft Environmental Assessment for Activities Using Biological Simulants and Releases of Chemicals at the Nevada Test Site Available for Public Comment**

The National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office has released for review a *Preapproval Draft Environmental Assessment for Activities Using Biological Simulants and Releases of Chemicals at the Nevada Test Site*. The document may be viewed online at [www.nv.doe.gov](http://www.nv.doe.gov); or at the National Nuclear Security Administration's Nuclear Testing Archive, located at the Desert Research Institute, 755C East Flamingo in Las Vegas, Nevada. The facility is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Implementation of the proposed action in the EA will enhance the capability to support additional research and development, training, and field evaluation activities conducted as part of various national security programs.

The EA analyzed the potential environmental impacts associated with the expansion of current critical national security mission capabilities beyond those already addressed in existing National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents for the Nevada Test Site (NTS). The proposed action includes:

- Providing locations, facilities, infrastructure, and support for work involving handling, storing, and releasing non-pathogenic (non-infectious) biological materials under controlled conditions
- Allowing releases of small quantities of chemicals at various new locations on the NTS
- Modify existing release criteria to accommodate a wider range of wind conditions for releases at the Hazardous Materials Spill Center

Comments on the environmental assessment will be accepted until May 14, 2004 and may be e-mailed to [nepa@nv.doe.gov](mailto:nepa@nv.doe.gov); or by U.S Postal mail to: Chem Bio EA, NEPA Document Manager, National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office, P.O. Box 98518, Las Vegas, Nevada 89193, Attention: Michael Skougard.

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